

Investigation Board for a term of five years. (Reappointment)

Richard A. Meserve, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a term of five years expiring June 30, 2004, vice Shirley Ann Jackson, term expired.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 1657. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Albania; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 1658. A bill to authorize the construction of a Reconciliation Place in Fort Pierre, South Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 1659. A bill to convey the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, the Savage Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, and the Intake Irrigation Project to the appurtenant irrigation districts; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 1660. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to expand the prohibition on stalking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. LOTT):

S. 1661. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide that certain voluntary disclosures of violations of Federal law made as a result of a voluntary environmental audit shall not be subject to discovery or admitted into evidence during a judicial or administrative proceeding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRAMS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1662. A bill to grant the President authority to proclaim the elimination or staged rate reduction of duties on certain environmental goods; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 1663. A bill to combat money laundering and protect the United States financial system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BENNETT:

S. 1664. A bill to clarify the legal effect on the United States of the acquisition of a parcel of land in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in the State of Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 1665. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to release reversionary interests held by the United States in certain parcels of land in Washington County, Utah, to facilitate an anticipated land exchange; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. HELMS):

S. 1666. A bill to provide risk education assistance to agricultural producers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

S. 1667. A bill to impose a moratorium on the export of bulk fresh water from the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1668. A bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to establish provisions with respect to religious accommodation in employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. ROBB):

S. Res. 190. A resolution designating the week of October 10, 1999, through October 16, 1999, as National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Week; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 191. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding East Timor and supporting the multinational force for East Timor; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. HATCH, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BOND, Mr. DODD, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. Con. Res. 57. A concurrent resolution concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 1657. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Albania; to the Committee on Finance.

REMOVAL OF ALBANIA FROM JACKSON-VANIK TRADE RESTRICTIONS

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill authorizing the President to grant permanent Normal Trade Relations status to Albania, overcoming the so-called Jackson-Vanik restrictions in Title IV of the Trade Act. This legislation is urgently needed so that when Albania joins the World Trade Organization later this year, the United States can enter into full WTO relations with this

market-oriented country in the Balkans.

Mr. President, I offer this legislation and seek the support of my colleagues for three reasons: First, the Cold War-era Jackson-Vanik restrictions are no longer relevant for Albania. We should free our relations with Albania from restrictions applied to communist countries. The Jackson-Vanik restrictions applied to countries with non-market economies which limited emigration. Albania now has a market economy which some may argue needs more regulation. Albanians are now also free to emigrate, sometimes much to the chagrin of Albania's neighbors. The President certified Albania to be in compliance with the Jackson-Vanik requirements in January 1998 and has continued to report that Albania remains in compliance. The certification process is simply a relic of the Cold War.

Second, granting Albania permanent Normal Trade Relations, or NTR, status through the WTO will encourage and support Albania's free-trade orientation and integration into the global trading system. Little more than a decade ago, Albania was closed off from the rest of the world by a severely Stalinist regime. Today, all major political forces in Albania—including the governing Socialist Party and the opposition Democratic Party, which led the first post-Communist government—support democracy, free trade and integration with the West. A delegation from Albania's Parliament made clear the breadth and depth of support for Albania's WTO membership. Albania has enacted virtually all the necessary legislation and implementing regulations necessary to meet WTO standards and will implement the rest prior to its WTO accession. They will not even require a transition period. We should reward this tremendous positive change by welcoming Albania into the WTO and opening our markets to Albanian goods on a fair basis negotiated through the WTO.

Third, this bill will benefit U.S. firms by securing Albania's commitment to WTO standards and giving the United States access to WTO dispute settlement mechanisms with regard to Albania. The annual certification requirement under existing law would require the United States to demur from entering into full WTO relations with Albania when that country becomes a member later this year. Thus, without the enactment of this legislation, we will not have access to WTO dispute settlement mechanisms and will only be able to engage in economic relations with Albania on a bilateral basis.

Mr. President, for the reasons I have outlined—moving beyond the Cold War, supporting development of a market economy and democracy in Albania, and providing WTO protection of market access for American businesses—I